

SCHEDULE FOR THE SELECT COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE VOTING IRREGULARITIES OF AUGUST 2

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, the Select Committee would like to give the Members a brief update on the activities of the Select Committee to Investigate the Voting Irregularities of August 2. The Select Committee held a series of briefings and hearings designed to inform the members of the Select Committee of the mechanics of conducting a record vote on the House floor, the electronic voting system, and the precedents and procedures relevant to the voting process. The Select Committee has been conducting a thorough investigation of rollcall 814, including the motion to reconsider that vote (rollcall 815). The Select Committee has completed 18 staff interviews and 4 Member interviews, perused almost 5000 pages of documents related to rollcall 814, and engaged in discussions on possible recommendations of changes to the rules and procedures of the House as mandated by the Select Committee's authorizing resolution (House Resolution 611). In the next month, the Select Committee will hold two public hearings relative to its investigation, one public hearing relative to its recommendations, and one public meeting on its final report. The Select Committee intends to file its final report by the end of May.

OBSERVING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, today we mark a sad anniversary, the 93rd anniversary of the Armenian genocide, April 24, 1915 was the day that over two hundred Armenian political and intellectual leaders were arrested by Ottoman authorities. Subsequently, the systematic killing of Armenians resulted in well over one million deaths. This horrible mass killing is well-recognized and well documented, including in the United States' national archives, and it has been confirmed by the International Association of Genocide Scholars.

It is important to commemorate those who lost their lives. And it is important to recognize the Armenian genocide for what it was. At the time, the United States government and its citizens acted with generosity and diplomatic support in response to the mass killing. Today's observance is a continuation of that response. And only by recognizing and studying past cases of genocide will we have a chance of preventing them in the future.

93RD COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 93rd anniversary of the Armenian genocide. As the first genocide of the 20th century, it is morally imperative that we remember this atrocity and collectively demand reaffirmation of this crime against humanity.

In 1915, Henry Morgenthau, America's ambassador stationed in Istanbul described a "systematic attempt to uproot peaceful Armenian populations." He warned Washington of the government's plan to "crush the Armenian race."

After these warnings from Morgenthau, the U.S. Government took action and responded to the Armenian genocide. During a time when hundreds of thousands were left orphaned and starving, a time when a nation was on the verge of complete extermination, the United States took the lead and proudly helped end these atrocities. In fact, Americans helped launch an unprecedented U.S. diplomatic, political and humanitarian campaign to end the carnage and protect the survivors.

Yet, 93 years later, the United States has not officially recognized the Armenian genocide. We owe it to the Armenian-American community, to the 1.5 million that were massacred in the genocide and to its own history—to reaffirm what is fact.

Last October, the Foreign Affairs Committee passed the Armenian Genocide Resolution, giving full recognition to the genocide, but, since then, the bill has stalled due to the deep pocketed and well oiled Turkish lobby.

By not recognizing the Armenian genocide for what it was, the government sponsored, systematic killing of a people, we fall prey to the Turkish government's threats. At the expense of truth, we buckle to Turkey out of geo-political convenience.

Refusing to recognize the Armenian genocide only erodes our international reputation as human rights leaders. By remaining silent, we encourage Turkey to continue denial. While we look the other way, the Turkish government continues to prosecute those who speak out about the Armenian genocide in Turkey. This cannot continue. We must stop pandering to Turkish government.

Fortunately, there are citizens of Turkey who refuse to deny the facts of the Armenian genocide. The Human Rights Association of Istanbul opposes the government muzzle. They recognize that state denial is the continuation of genocide, depriving the decedents of the Armenians the right to mourn their loved ones.

We cannot let denial continue. By doing so, we show the international community that not only is genocide accepted, but that we are indifferent. Recognizing the Armenian genocide is crucial to helping end the cycle of genocide that has continued to plague civilization. If no one is held accountable, if America and the International community fail to act, then we allow these atrocities to continue.

A large majority of our colleagues want to support this resolution. Members want to reaffirm the United States' record on the Armenian

genocide. Unfortunately, the strong Turkish lobby is making it difficult for this House to take a firm stance for the truth.

Recognizing the Armenian genocide will bring closure to a people and send the message that crimes against humanity cannot be silenced.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DR. ERNEST MUNTZ

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Dr. Ernest Muntz. Dr. Muntz left Wheaton College during his second year to join his fellow countrymen in defending freedom around the globe. Seeing his country in peril, simultaneously fighting a war on two fronts, Dr. Muntz enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1942 because he believed that it was "the right thing to do."

During Dr. Muntz's time of service in the Army Air Corps, he played a key role as a cryptographer in the Pacific Theater. He received and deciphered messages as part of the Army Airways Communications System, saving lives with each decoded message. He retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1975 with the rank of full Colonel.

After the war, Dr. Muntz decided to complete his education at Wheaton College, graduating in 1948. He continued his education at the University of Rochester, earning his doctorate in history in 1960. Dr. Muntz held various professorships and contributed his knowledge and passion for academia to institutions of higher education. He had a distinguished career as a full professor of history at the University of Cincinnati and then dean of the Raymond Walters College.

I am honored to have Dr. Ernest Muntz as my constituent, and I hope that today's generation of young men and women will follow the shining example of patriotism and scholarship that he has set.

93RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, every year we mark the anniversary of a terrible event that took place over the years of 1915–1923, during the First World War, when 1.5 million Armenians were slaughtered and over half a million survivors were forced to leave a homeland they had inhabited for over two millennia. Today marks the 93rd anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

I am a cosponsor of H. Res. 106, a resolution which simply affirms a historical fact. The United States National Archives and Record Administration holds extensive records, open to the public, which meticulously document the Armenian genocide. Furthermore, the post-World War I Turkish government indicted leaders who were involved in these killings which